



**ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
PARKS**

Creating Communities of Innovation

6262 N Swan Rd., Suite 170
Tucson, AZ 85718
Phone: 520.529.2521
Fax: 520.529.2499
Email : eileenwalker@aurp.net
Website: www.aurp.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF
REGIONS, STATES AND NATIONS**

New comprehensive report outlines emerging impact of parks

St. Louis, Missouri, USA October 26, 2007 - University Research Parks are emerging as strong sources of entrepreneurship, talent and economic competitiveness according to a new report, *Characteristics and Trends in North American Research Parks: 21st Century Directions*, prepared by Battelle's Technology Partnership Practice (TPP) in partnership with the Association of University Research Parks (AURP).

TPP helps clients develop and implement strategies to drive technology-based economic development by using tools, such as research parks, to make universities and other research institutions key drivers of economic development. AURP is a non-profit association that promotes the development and operation of research parks.

A survey of 134 university research parks in the United States and Canada revealed that:

More than 300,000 workers in North America work in a located in a university research park.

Every job in a research park generates an average of 2.57 jobs in the economy resulting in a total employment impact of more than 750,000 jobs.

"A new model is emerging," said Walter H. Plosila, Vice-President, Battelle TPP. "What we're seeing are strategically planned, mixed-use campuses designed to create an environment that fosters collaboration and innovation and promotes the development, transfer and commercialization of technology," he said. Research parks have become a key element of the technology infrastructure supporting the growth of today's knowledge economy."

"Research parks are key drivers of regional development," said J. Michael Bowman, President of the AURP Board of Directors and Chairman & President, Delaware Technology Park. Research parks were traditionally established to recruit R&D and technology companies to locate near a university in order to build a cluster of high technology companies.

Today, research parks increasingly spur homegrown business startups, retention and expansion with a focus on providing commercialization and business development support in addition to space for talent retention.

"Research and technology parks have exhibited a strong ability to attract and retain talent, which in turn, allows us to create a critical mass that can yield high economic opportunities for our regions," said Dale Gann, President of AURP Canada and Vice President-Technology Parks, Vancouver Island Technology Park.

"Important success factors for technology-led economic development include the commitment of university leadership and the local economic development community. This report is the first to quantify actual results of science parks as an important economic development tool," said Eileen Walker, Executive Director of AURP.

A full copy of Trends and Characteristics in North American Research Parks: 21st Century Directions can be found at www.battelle.org, www.aurp.net and www.aurpcanada.ca. Sponsors of the report include Research Triangle Park and The University Financing Foundation.

About Battelle

Battelle is the world's largest non-profit independent research and development organization, providing innovative solutions to the world's most pressing needs through its four global businesses: Laboratory Management, National Security, Energy Science and Technology, and Health and Life Sciences. It advances scientific discovery and application by conducting \$3.8 billion in global R&D annually through contract research, laboratory management and technology commercialization. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle oversees 20,000 employees in more than 120 locations worldwide, including six national laboratories which Battelle manages or co-manages for the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Battelle also is one of the nation's leading charitable trusts focusing on societal and economic impact and actively supporting and promoting science and math education.

About AURP

A non-profit international organization, AURP represents research, science or technology parks, which are designed to promote university-industry relations, to foster innovation, and to facilitate the transfer of technology from academe to the private sector. Today, the Association serves over 350 members around the world, with more than 400 research parks worldwide in varying stages of development.

AURP Canada

The Canadian Association of University Research parks (AURP Canada), a non-profit organization, role is to represent the members and to advocate the position of the organization before administrative tribunals, municipal government, provincial ministries, federal departments and their agencies. AURP Canada is comprised of 25 Research and Technology Parks across Canada.

Media Contact:

Kate Delaney
Media Relations Manager
Battelle National
410.306.8638
delaneyk@battelle.org

Eileen Walker
Executive Director
AURP
520.529.2521
eileenwalker@aurp.net

Dale Gann
President
AURP Canada
250.483.3203
dgann@aurpcanada.ca

